REMARKS

Claims 9-11 have been amended. New claims 16 and 17 have been added. No claims have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 9-17 are currently pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Solomon (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,409) in vie of Reneris (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0,004,810). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to a computer system in which a multi-OS driver is shared with a plurality of operating systems (OSs) although the multi-OS driver is independent of the OSs. The multi-OS driver manages information as to which interrupt signal should be notified to which OS. According to this configuration, the multi-OS driver obtains an interrupt signal from a hardware device and notifies the appropriate OS of the presence of the interrupt signal, based on management information. Upon receiving a request for use of the hardware device from an OS, the multi-OS driver grants permission to the requesting OS to use the hardware device (and updated management information), unless the management information indicates that another OS is using

the hardware device. Then, the multi-OS driver notifies the
OS of an interrupt signal from the hardware device when an
interrupt is issued by the hardware device.

On the other hand, Solomon discloses that a predetermined
OS (UNIX) always receives an interrupt from a hardware device
and decides whether or not the received interrupt is for
itself or for another OS (Windows). If the interrupt is for
another OS, the predetermined OS notifies this other OS of the
interrupt via a software abstraction layer (SAL). In other
words, in Solomon, the predetermined OS manages the
notification of interrupts. On the other hand, Solomon's SAL
which is capable of communicating with plural OSs does not
manage the destination of notification of interrupts.

The Examiner mistakenly interrupts Solomon's SAL as
Applicants' multi-OS driver. In fact, Solomon's SAL is quite
different from Applicants' multi-OS driver. If Solomon's
predetermined OS (UNIX) fails, the management of interrupts
does not work and no interrupts will be notified to the other
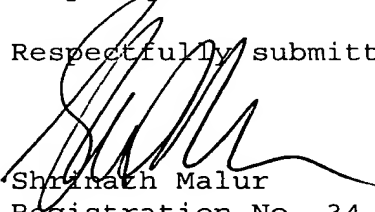OS (Windows) that is working normally.

On the other hand, Applicants' multi-OS driver is
provided independently of each OS. Therefore, if one OS
fails, interrupts to other OSs will be notified normally.
This is an advantage provided by Applicants' invention that

cannot be realized by Solomon. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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